



BARROWFORD URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December, 1939.

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Barrowford Urban District Council.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

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Medical Officer of Health:

R. G. MARKHAM, M.D., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:

J. F. SMITHIE, M. Inst. M & Cy E., A.R.S.I.

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Part-time Officers

from the

Nelson Public Health Department:

J. W. Ingham, C.R.S.I.; S. Grindrod, C.R.S.I.



Public Health Office,  
Nelson.

November, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the Barrowford  
Urban District Council.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting a report on the health and sanitary conditions of Barrowford for the year ended the 31st December, 1939.

The Ministry of Health have suggested, in view of the increasing pressure of work in the Public Health Departments of Local Authorities, and under present existing conditions, that interim reports only should be made for the year 1939. I propose therefore, for the purpose of this Report, to give only essential features, in the form of a summary.

Figures relative to birth and death rates are obtained normally from the Registrar General, but these are delayed and cannot be included. Should the figures become available later they will be inserted as an appendix to the report.

From the weekly returns sent by the Local Registrar for Births, Deaths, etc., it is possible to give the number of births and deaths that have occurred within the district during the year. The number of deaths in other districts of persons whose homes were in Barrowford is also available. From these



figures an approximate death rate can be calculated, but no indication of the birth rate can be submitted until the number of births relative to Barrowford residents, which have occurred in other districts, is known.

An analysis of the deaths according to age and the various causes, has been compiled from the local figures, and this is submitted. This analysis is however subject to revision when the corrected figures are available. It may be noted that of the 67 deaths allocated to Barrowford, 45 occurred within the district, and 22 in other districts.

Freedom from illness of an infectious nature, notifiable under the Infectious Disease Notification Acts, is an outstanding feature of the year. Measles and Whooping-cough were added to the list of notifiable diseases from the 23rd October, yet, notwithstanding this addition, only 13 notifications, including 2 of whooping-cough, were received during the year.

The average number of notifications received per year for the previous ten years is 24.

No case of scarlet fever or diphtheria was notified. This is the second year in succession in which no notification of a case of scarlet fever has been received.

There have been no cases of infectious disease removed to Hospital during the year. Since becoming a constituent member of the Joint Hospital Board in October, 1938, only one patient from Barrowford has been removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital.





# 1. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	1387 acres.
Population - Census 1931	5299
Registrar-General's estimate of:-	
(a) Resident population, mid 1939	not available
(b) Average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	not available.

Number of inhabited houses	
(a) Census 1931	1602
(b) End of 1939 according to rate books	1793

Rateable value	£ 27362.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£ 104.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area:-

Little change in social conditions.  
Cotton and silk weaving with trades allied thereto form the staple industry.

Extent of unemployment:-

Unemployment generally, appeared to decrease as the year progressed.

## Vital Statistics.

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment: None.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the year: None.



Any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health: None.

Any evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults: None.

### Deaths.

45 deaths were registered as having occurred in Barrowford during the year. These comprised 22 males and 23 females, all of whom were residents of Barrowford. In addition there were 22 deaths (15 males and 7 females) which occurred in other districts of persons whose home address was in Barrowford. This gives a total of 67 deaths for the year of which 37 were males and 30 females. Based on the estimated population for the previous year these deaths would give an approximate death rate of 13.6 per thousand of population.

From the following analysis of the causes of, and ages at death, it will be noted that heart disease was responsible for the highest number of deaths with 19 and malignant disease the next highest with 9 deaths.

From the age groups it will be seen that 33 or approximately 50% of the deaths were of persons of 65 years of age and over.

There were 4 deaths of infants under one year of age. The cause of, and age at death of these infants was, Prematurity:- 3 deaths ages 1 day, 1 day, and newly born; Pneumonia one death at the age of 9 months.



## Monthly analysis of Deaths.

Month	Males	Females	Total
January	3	7	10
February	2	4	6
March	2	1	3
April	3	2	5
May	3	4	7
June	3	1	4
July	5	-	5
August	-	4	4
September	3	2	5
October	1	-	1
November	5	-	5
December	7	5	12

## Births.

28 live births were registered during the year as having occurred in Barrowford. These were all relative to residents of Barrowford, and comprise 13 males and 14 females, legitimate, and 1 male illegitimate. No still births were registered for the area.

Analysis of the births registered for each month is:-

Month	Male	Female	Total
January	-	1	1
February	-	4	4
March	3	2	5
April	1	2	3
May	2	2	4
June	2	-	2
July	2	1	3
August	-	-	-
September	2	1	3
October	2	-	2
November	-	-	-
December	-	1	1



Causes of, and Ages at Death.

Year ended 31st December, 1939.

Causes of Death.	All ages	Under 1 yr.	5 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs.	65 and upwards.
Certified	67	4	1	1	11	17	33
Influenza	2					1	1
Tuberculosis of							
Resp. System	2			1	1	2	6
Cancer	9						1
Diabetes	1						5
Cerebral Haemorrhage	6					1	13
Heart Disease	19				2	4	
Other Circulatory Diseases	2					1	1
Pneumonia	2	1					1
Other Resp. Diseases	1						1
Appendicitis	1				1		
Other Digestive Diseases	1				1		
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4				1	1	2
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations etc.	3	3					
Senility	1						1
Other Violence	4		1		2		1
Other Defined Causes	7				1	6	





## 2. General Provision of Health Services for the area.

### Laboratory facilities.

The public health laboratory in connection with the public health office at Nelson is available to the local practitioners for the examination of specimens for diagnostic purposes.

### Ambulance facilities.

For non-infectious, accident, and maternity patients, an arrangement with the Nelson Corporation provides for ambulance facilities. For infectious cases, the Burnley Joint Hospital Board provide an ambulance.

### Nursing in the Home.

The arrangement between your Authority and the Local District Nursing Association whereby nursing assistance can be given on request in cases of pneumonia, encephalitis, and influenza, is still in operation. The Council give an annual contribution of £25 to the Association, and in addition pay a fee of one shilling for each visit paid by the Nurse.

During the year two cases of pneumonia received nursing assistance, 20 visits in the first case and 50 visits in the second case were paid by the District Nurse.

### Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The only clinic held within the district is the Infant Welfare Centre.



A weekly session is held on Thursday afternoons at the Congregational Schoolroom, Church Street. All maternity and Child welfare work is undertaken by the Lancashire County Council.

Other Clinics which though not situate within the district are available for Barrowford patients, are:-

Lanc. County Council - School Clinic,  
Manchester Road, Nelson.

Lanc. County Council - Orthopaedic Clinic  
School Clinic, Carr Road, Nelson.

Lanc. County Council - Artificial Light  
& Tuberculosis Dispensary, Carr Road,  
Nelson.

Lanc. County Council - Venereal Disease  
Treatment Centre, Victoria Hospital,  
Burnley.

No day Nursery has been established.

### Hospitals in the District.

There are no Hospitals situated within the District.

The general hospital accommodation available for residents of Barrowford is as follows:



General Medical  
and Surgical.

Reedyford Hospital  
Nelson and  
Victoria Hospital,  
Burnley. Both  
voluntary.

Children.

None.

Maternity.

The Maternity Home  
Nelson and the  
Maternity Home,  
Colne. Admission  
by private  
arrangements.

Venereal Diseases.

Victoria Hospital,  
Burnley.

Tuberculosis.

Lanc. County  
Council Sanatoria.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Burnley Joint  
Hospital Board  
Sanatorium.

Orthopaedic.

For children,  
arrangements  
through the Lanc.  
County Council.

The Public Assistance Institution and  
Infirmary for the Area is situate at Burnley,

No institution is provided in the Area  
for unmarried mothers, Illegitimate infants,  
or for homeless children.

Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927.

This Act is administered by the Lanc.  
County Council.



### 3. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

#### Water supply.

There has been no change during the year. The water supply is provided by the Nelson Corporation. The supply is constant and all houses in the built up portion of the area have a direct supply. Chlorination apparatus is installed at the reservoirs supplying the district.

Supervision of the supply is undertaken by the Water Engineer of Nelson. Routine examination and analysis is carried out.

Farms and adjoining cottages on the outskirts of the district rely on springs for their supply. No analysis of these waters has been made during the year.

#### Drainage and Sewerage.

There have been no extensions during the year. The sewage disposal works are owned by the local authority, and there is a natural fall to the works from all parts of the district. Treatment is by precipitation and biological filtration through percolatory filters.

Supervision of the works is undertaken by your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Drain flushing, testing, etc. is carried out by the Council's staff under the direction of the Surveyor.







## Rivers and Streams.

Supervision of the rivers and streams is undertaken by the Ribble Joint Committee.

## Sanitary accommodation at end of 1939.

Privy Middens:--	number of middens	14
	number of closets attached to these middens	14
Number of pail closets		13
Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens)		24
Number of movable ashbins		1867
Number of houses on water carriage system		1766
Number of fresh water closets		524
Number of waste water closets		865

## Conversions during 1939:--

Number of waste water closets to fresh water closets	5
Number of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles.	2

## Public Cleansing.

This is carried out by your own staff under the supervision of the Surveyor. House refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping. Offal and other offensive matter is taken to an adjoining Authority for incineration. One motor lorry supplemented by horse drawn vehicles are used for the service.

Cess-pools Privies, etc., all of which are situated on the outskirts of the district are emptied during the day, and the refuse tipped on adjoining farm lands.



## Sanitary Inspections during 1939.

Number of premises in general visited or inspected.	367
Number of inspections of farm premises.	13
Number of inspections of shops.	190
Number of inspections of factories with mechanical power.	41
Number of inspections of factories without mechanical power.	23
Number of visits to slaughter houses.	145
Number of visits to infectious cases.	5
Number of defects or nuisances found.	108
Number of defects remedied or nuisances abated.	108
Number of informal or verbal notices.	108
Number of statutory notices.	2
Number of legal proceedings.	nil

## Shops and Offices.

190 visits of inspection were paid by your Sanitary Inspector who also acts as Shops Inspector. These inspections were relative to the ventilation and temperature, and to sanitary conveniences. Each shop within the district was inspected twice during the year, and one informal notice was served.

## Camping Sites.

There are no sites in the Area which were used for camping purposes during 1939.



## Smoke abatement.

There are 10 factory or works chimneys in the district, and 21 observations were taken during the year. The limit allowed for the emission of black smoke is 10 minutes per hour. This limit was exceeded in 12 instances, and one statutory notice was served to abate the nuisance.

## Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools within the district. There are Public Swimming Baths, and an Open Air Swimming Pool in the adjoining Borough of Nelson.

## Eradication of bed bugs.

No action has been taken during the year.

## Schools.

The sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory. There are three schools in the area, each of which is supplied with Town's water.

## Offensive trades.

No premises are registered for the carrying on of an offensive trade.

## Factories Act, 1937.

64 inspections of factories have been made. 5 defects were found, in each case in a factory without mechanical power. Written notices were sent which resulted in the defects receiving attention.



Common Lodging-houses.

There are no Common Lodging-houses in the Area.

Houses let in lodgings.

There is no record of houses let in lodgings in Barrowford.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

No action has been taken during the year.

Underground Sleeping Rooms.

There are none in the district.

Canal Boats.

Inspection of canal boats is not undertaken.

Rag Flock Acts 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in the district in which rag flock is manufactured, used, or sold.





## 4. Housing.

## Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

- (a) Total (including numbers  
given separately under (b) ) 29
- |                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| (1) By the local authority      | nil |
| (2) By other local authorities  | nil |
| (3) By other bodies or persons. | 29  |

- (b) With State assistance under the  
Housing Acts:-
- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (1) By the local authority<br>(included under (a) (1) above ) | nil |
| (2) By other bodies<br>(included under (a) (3) above )        | nil |

## Housing conditions.

Housing conditions are generally good. The prevailing type of defect found is generally due to lack of supervision or repairs, and informal action only has been found adequate to have the defects remedied.

The changed conditions during the year under review do not appear to have affected housing matters to any appreciable extent.

The local authority have no housing scheme in hand nor has any been completed during 1939.

No cases of overcrowding have been brought to my notice during the year.

There has been no action taken during 1939 in regard to Clearance or Improvement Areas.



## 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food, Milk Supply.

Periodic inspection of farm premises and dairies is carried out, and the register of cowkeepers, dairymen, etc. amended from time to time.

Licenses under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders are issued by the Lancashire County Council, and supervision of the milk supply from licensed premises is undertaken by this Authority.

One farmstead in your Area produces tuberculin tested certified milk, and there are others at which accredited milk is produced.

Examination of the milk supply is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Nelson. 41 samples of milk which had been produced on farms in Barrowford have been tested, and the following particulars give results of the various examinations carried out.

### Milk Fat.

Number of samples tested	41
Number found of genuine quality	34
Number found below standard quality	7
Average amount of milk fat per sample	3.19%

### Milk Solids.

Number of samples tested	37
Number found of standard quality	37
Average amount of total solids per sample	11.84%
Average amount of solids not fat per sample	8.63%



## Visible cleanliness.

Number of samples tested	37
Number found unsatisfactory	1

## Methylene blue reduction test.

Number of samples tested	37
Number in which methylene blue was reduced in 2 hours	nil
Number in which methylene blue was reduced under $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours but over 2 hours	1
Number in which methylene blue was reduced under $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours but over $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours	3
Number in which methylene blue was not reduced in $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours	33

## Tubercle Bacilli.

Number of samples tested	4
Number of samples found positive	1

## Coliform Bacilli.

Number of samples tested	37
Number showing coliform bacilli present in 0.01 c.c.	4
Percentage of samples with coliform bacilli present	10.8

## Bacterial Count.

Number of samples tested	37
Number of samples with less than 10.000 bacteria per c.c.	3
Number of samples with over 10.000 but under 50.000 bacteria per c.c.	26





Number of samples with over 50,000	
but under 100,000 bacteria per c.c.	1
Number of samples with over 100,000	
but under 200,000 bacteria per c.c.	6
Number of samples with over 200,000	
but under 300,000 bacteria per c.c.	1

### Veterinary Inspection.

No veterinary inspection of dairy herds is undertaken by the Local Authority.

### Alteration of premises.

There has been no structural alterations or improvements to farm buildings undertaken during the year of which I have particulars.

### Meat and other foods.

There are six slaughterhouses in the area and up to the change in conditions these were subject to regular inspection.

There has been no seizure of unsound meat during the year but there has been surrendered at the time of inspection, 1 bovine head, 3 pairs bovine lungs, 3 pig's heads, and 1 pig's pluck, all on account of tubercular lesions.

No legal proceedings have been necessary during the year.

There has been no outbreak of food poisoning reported during the year.





## Food and Drugs Acts.

The County Police Authority has administered these Acts, and Mr. Supt. Pickering informs me that his Officers have purchased 10 samples of milk during the year. The analysis of these samples showed them to be genuine.

On behalf of the Lanc. County Council 4 samples of the milk supplied to the school children in Barrowford have been taken by your Sanitary Inspector, and submitted to the County Council for them to have analysed.

## 6. Prevalence of, and control over,

## Infectious Diseases.

Hospital accommodation provided or available.

For smallpox. The Burnley Joint Hospital Board's premises at Crown Point, Burnley.

For other infectious diseases. The Burnley Joint Hospital Board's premises at Marsden Road, Burnley.

Barrowford is a constituent authority of the Burnley Joint Hospital Board.

## Infectious Diseases generally.

There has been no prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases (including measles and whooping cough) during the year.



The number of notifications received is the lowest for any one year I have had to record.

During the year only 13 notifications were received, these comprising 3 cases of Erysipelas, 3 cases of Pneumonia, 2 cases of Whooping-cough, 3 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 2 cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No facilities exist for the typing of pneumococci or for the provision of appropriate type sera, nor has any action been taken locally in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is available to the local practitioners for use in Barrowford, by an arrangement with the Nelson Corporation whereby the supply kept at the Police Station, Nelson, can be called upon. No other serum, vaccine, or sera, is supplied free to medical practitioners.

Diarrhoea (Under 2 years) or Chicken-pox is not notifiable in your area.

No action has been taken to provide artificial immunization against diphtheria or Scarlet fever, nor is immunization material supplied free to medical practitioners.

The number of pathological or bacteriological examinations carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Nelson in which the specimens originated from Barrowford are:-



Throat Swabs	9
Ear Swab	1
Pus for organisms	15
Blood Films	6
Sputum	3
Urine	6
Pathological specimens	2
Animal tissues	10
Milk for T.B.	4
Milk for bacterial contents	37
Milk deposits	6

The following table gives an analysis of the cases of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified, according to Age Groups

Dis- case.	Total cases	Age periods							Removed to Hospital.
		under at	1	1-5	5-20	20-35	35-45	45-65 and over	
Whoop- ing cough	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pneu- monia	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-
Erysip elas.	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Totals	8	-	1	1	2	-	3	1	-



## Disinfection after infectious disease.

Number of houses disinfected  
during 1939

4

Method used

Formalin spray and  
vapour.

Apparatus used for clothing  
bedding etc.

Steam Disinfector.

Apparatus situated

Destructor Works,  
Charles St., Nelson

Disinfection is carried out by an arrangement  
between your Authority and the adjoining  
Authority of Nelson.

## Tuberculosis.

New cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age Periods Years	New cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non-resp.		Resp.		Non-resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
25	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	3	1	1	-	2	-	-

The number of deaths shown above are  
compiled from the local returns and are subject  
to revision when the corrected returns from the  
Registrar General are available.







Notification of the disease in the district is efficient and no action has been necessary for wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

No action has been necessary in regard to tuberculosis employees in the milk trade, nor in regard to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

#### 7. Maternity and Child Welfare.

This work is carried out in your district by the Lancashire County Council.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is held on Thursday afternoon of each week at the Congregational School Room, Church Street.

Maternity Homes at Nelson and at Colne are available to Barrowford patients but admission is by private arrangement. In necessitous cases arrangements can be made through the County Council for admission to these Homes at a reduced fee.

#### Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No case of this disease has been reported during the year.

#### Puerperal Pyrexia.

No case of Puerperal Pyrexia has been reported.



## Conclusion.

In conclusion I have to record my appreciation of the help I have received from the Officials of your Authority, (Mr. Armistead the Clerk to the Council, and Mr. Smithie the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector,) in discharging the duties of the office throughout the year.

Under the changing conditions of the year many extra duties have been imposed but these have been willingly undertaken by all the Officials concerned, without in any way detracting from the efficiency of the Department in dealing with matters concerned solely with the state of the Public Health. This can be confirmed by a study of the various figures and statistics which are included in the course of this report.

In compiling this report, in addition to the Officials previously mentioned, I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspectors from Nelson, Mr. Smith the Water Engineer of Nelson, and Mr. Supt. Pickering of the County Police, and to all I tender my thanks.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

R.G. MARKHAM, M.B. D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

